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NJMC Plans Combination Eco-Cruise and Hike to the Top of Laurel Hill for September 23

LYNDHURST, N.J. – Eco-tourists will be offered a breathtaking view of the Meadowlands September 23 when New Jersey Meadowlands Commission staff lead a hike approximately 150 feet up Laurel Hill in Secaucus.

The NJMC has added the combination hike and pontoon boat cruise to its schedule to accommodate the demand for Hackensack River exploration during the summer of 2006.

At 8 a.m., participants will board NJMC pontoon boats at the River Barge Park and Marina in Carlstadt for a morning look at wading birds, shorebirds and other wildlife accompanied by a narration of the gritty urban history and legends of the lower Hackensack River.

The tour will include a moderate level climb up Laurel Hill, a basalt rock that was once home to asylums, hospitals and a prison.

The hill offers an aerial perspective of the Sawmill Creek Wildlife Management Area and other marshes, roadways and neighborhoods that make up the 32-square mile Meadowlands District.

A recommended donation of \$20 per person is suggested, and participants must be 18 and older. Drinks and snacks will be provided. Pre-registration is required. Hiking boots and long sleeves are suggested. Binoculars and cameras are encouraged.

For additional information or to register, call (201) 460-4640.

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